

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 /070 W

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R 131816Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0919

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, FR, BL

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR JOAQUIN
ZENTENO ANAYA

REF: PARIS 13771 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SERVICES WERE HELD AT 11:00 A.M. TODAY FOR
BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR ZENTENO. FRENCH FONMIN
SAUVAGNARGUES, A REPRESENTATIVE FOR PRESIDENT
GISCARD D'ESTAIN, AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ATTENDED.
FRENCH HAVE MADE AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE TO FLY BODY HOME.
BURIAL EXPECTED IN LA PAZ MAY 16.

2. CHE GUEVARA INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE CALLED AFP
HOURS AFTER ASSASSINATION CLAIMING AUTHORSHIP OF ACT
NOTING THAT ZENTENO HAD PROTECTED CLAUS BARBIE,
GESTAPO CHIEF IN LYON DURING THE WAR, FROM EXTRADI-
TION FROM BOLIVIA, AND OF BEING CHIEF OF STAFF OF
SANTA CRUZ MILITARY DISTRICT WHEN CHE GUEVARA
WAS KILLED. BRIGADE ALSO CLAIMED ACT COMMEMORATED
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VE DAY (MAY 8).

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, "LIBERATION" RECEIVED ANOTHER ANONYMOUS CALL FROM PERSON CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR BRIGADE STATING THAT GUN USED TO KILL ZENTENO ALSO USED IN ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF SPANISH ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE CAPTAIN BARTOLOME GARCIA PLATA VALLE IN PARIS IN OCTOBER 1975. POLICE HAVE ESTABLISHED WEAPONS WERE OF SIMILAR MAKE. CHE GUEVARA BRIGADE HAS NOT BEEN HEARD OF BEFORE, BUT OTHER "INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES" HAVE CLAIMED AUTHORSHIP FOR ASSASSINATING GARCIA PLATA AND URUGUAYN MILITARY ATTACHE COLONEL RAMON TRABAL. POLICE HAVE SO FAR CLAIMED NO LEADS.

4. PRESS REPORTS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN FACTUAL WITH LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT EXCEPT FROM RADICAL LEFT PAPERS WHO MAKE IT CLEAR ZENTENO GOT HIS JUST DESSERTS FOR HAVING "KILLED" CHE GUEVARA. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

5. CHILEAN AMBASSADOR ERRAZURIZ TOLD EMBOFF MAY 13 THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED PAID PUBLICATION IN MAY 9 "LE MONDE" OF LATIN AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY COORDINATION JUNTA (JCR) DECLARATION AGAINST ARGENTINE REGIME AND ARREST OF CHILEAN TERRORIST EDGARDO ENRIQUEZ TWO HOURS BEFORE HIS ASSASSINATION. THEY HAD PLANNED TO MEET THAT AFTERNOON TO DRAW UP A PROTEST TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AGAINST SUCH PUBLIC CALLS TO VIOLENCE BY EXILES. ERRAZURIZ CLAIMED HE NOW UNDER DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT PINOCHET TO PROTEST SUCH ACTIVITY. ERRAZURIZ, UNLIKE ZENTENO, HAS OFTEN RECEIVED THREATS WHICH HE HAS TREATED WITH NONCHALANT FATALISM. IN LIGHT OF ZENTENO'S DEATH AND MOST RECENT THREAT THAT HE WOULD BE ASSASSINATED IF ENRIQUEZ IS NOT RELEASED, HE UNDERSTANDABLY TAKING THREAT MORE SERIOUSLY. END CONFIDENTIAL. GAMMON

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